which included technical as well as commercial parameters such as experience of fund management, track record, technological platforms, management fee etc.

(b) and (c) The details of the pension accounts and pension corpus of the Central Government employees under the new pension system since 1st January, 2004 are being maintained by the Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO) under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Govt, of India, till date. The pension corpus will be managed by the three pension fund companies once the NFS architecture is made fully operational.

(d) Government has been giving a fixed return of 8% per annum on the NPS corpus till date.

Development of airport infrastructure in the country

*71. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to provide world-class airport infrastructure. Government are planning to offer over 300 airports and airstrips to private players for development through the public-private partnership;

(b) whether apart from commercial use, the airstrips would also be used for providing training to pilots;

(c) whether of the 400 airports airstrips and helipads, 127 are owned by the Airports Authority of India and, only 74 are operational and the Ministry is ready to develop the remaining 53 airports along with private players; and

(d) if so, whether the development work in all the airports will be over by 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present, there is no such plan.

(b) The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plans to promote flying-schools at its non-operational and relatively less busy airports. AAI has, accordingly, invited Expressions of Interest (Eol).

(c) There are 453 airports/airstrips in the country belonging to AAI, Defence, State Governments and Private entities. Of these, 127 belong to AAI, including 28 civil-enclaves at defence airports, 40 AAI airports are non-operational. Such airports are taken up for development/ upgradation on request from airlines operators and the concerned State Governments. AAI has no plans to develop such airports jointly with private players.

(d) Development/Upgradation of airports is a continuous process depending upon the traffic potential, demands from airlines operators, commercial viability etc. However, development/ upgradation work of the identified 35 non-metro airports is scheduled to be completed by March, 2010.

Commercial use of ground water

*72. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be

pleased to state:

(a) whether any Conference on Ground Water was held in New Delhi in

September, 2007;

(b) if so, what were the details of discussion and outcome thereof;